

## Soldiers Calvary Summer Range Camp

By Gwen <sup>Buehler</sup> Smith

Military  
in  
Wasatch Co

My brother Dean, 78 years old in August of 2000, told me about the camp our father, Charles Edwin Buehler, leased to the Fort Douglas Calvary. He said it was part of the University of Utah ROTC program. The property was located on the Provo River straight east from our house on River Road in Midway, Utah.

They had draft horses to pull the large guns. (Fort Douglas has one of these carts in their museum display.) They also had polo horses for the ROTC candidates to play polo and riding horses. The horses were shod before they were brought to Midway. After they got here the shoes were removed, as they roamed and fed in the pasture for the summer. Then in the Fall, when school started up again, the same people would come to Midway and shoe the horses again for the trip back. The soldiers rode one horse and pulled two other from Salt Lake to Midway.

The soldiers would take turns staying in the camp for a month at time. They drew straws to see who would come. Their job was to count the horses every day and check the fences, so they wouldn't get out. They could bring their family if they liked. Other soldiers would come on weekends for parties. Dean said they would let him and our other brothers ride the horses in the pasture. They leased the property for several summers around 1938.

I remember the camp. Our whole family stayed there one summer when it wasn't being used for a few weeks while waiting to move into Uncle Jack's home and take over the farm. As children we would invite friends to come to the camp and stay with us for a week during the summer. It was a vacation. I asked Mother once after I'd grown up, how she dared to let five or six girls stay there alone. She said, "Times were different then and besides we came up to the camp every evening for fresh milk." There was a deep hole in the river with a rope tied to a tree above, and we would swing on the rope and jump into the river. It was so cold.

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